

**Amendments to the Claims:**

41. (currently amended) A step attachment for a trailer hitch having a hitch ball, said hitch having a longitudinal axis and said attachment including:

a mounting ~~portion member~~ adapted to be secured to the hitch by the hitch ball stud and having a mounting portion extending in front of the hitch ball, and

a step hinged to the mounting portion by a pivot pin secured to said mounting portion, wherein whereby the step is pivotable[[.]] about a horizontal axis transverse to said longitudinal axis, between a deployed position and a stowed position,

wherein in the deployed position, the step is disposed above the hitch ball and is usable regardless of whether a trailer is mounted on the hitch ball, and

wherein in the stowed position, the step is forward of the hitch ball.

42. (currently amended) A step attachment as recited in claim 41, further comprising means for locking the step in said deployed position against unauthorized operation thereof.

43. (previously presented) A step attachment as recited in claim 42, wherein the step, in its deployed position, is sufficiently close to the hitch to prevent a trailer tongue mounted on the hitch ball from coming off the hitch ball.

44. (canceled)

45. (currently amended) A step attachment as recited in claim ~~41~~41, wherein said mounting portion includes further comprising two opposed spaced lugs, wherein the pivot pin is mounted to between the lugs, and wherein each lug has an upper bearing surface which is adapted to support the underside of the step when the step is in its deployed position.